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society guarantees a yearly contribution of \$15,000 and for the building \$225,000. The government gives the ground and promises to furnish one of the professors of the university as the director of the institution. The management of the new imperial institute is to be in the hands of a committee.

THE Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, which owns all the property from Sixty-fourth to Sixty-seventh Street and from Avenue A to Exterior Street has secured from the city the title to Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth Streets from Avenue A to Exterior Street. While these streets have been laid out, they have never been cut through.

THE legislature of Pennsylvania last year appropriated \$3,000,000 for its public health, \$2,000,000 of which was to be expended in the fight against tuberculosis, and \$1,000,000 to combat other diseases. The *Medical Record* states that during the past four years the number of deaths per annum has been decreased 14,000. It is estimated that about 2,500 deaths from typhoid fever and 7,000 from diphtheria were prevented last year by the activities of the State Health Department. The state maintains three sanatoria and 115 dispensaries for the treatment of tuberculosis and during the past year treated 40,000 cases of that disease. Taking the lowest estimated value of a human life, \$1,700, it is calculated that the economic saving to the state through this reduction of the death rate amounts to \$24,000,000 for the year. Preliminary arrangements have been made for the medical inspection of girls and boys in the third and fourth class school districts throughout the state. Five hundred physicians will be appointed to the task which embraces the examination of children in 321 boroughs and 460 townships.

THE following are the lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution before Easter: Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, a Christmas course of six illustrated lectures on the "Childhood of Animals," adapted to a juvenile auditory; Mr. W. Bateson, Fullerian professor of physiology, six lectures on the "Study of Genet-

ics"; Professor E. G. Coker, two lectures on "Optical Determination of Stress and some Applications to Engineering Problems"; Dr. T. Rice Holmes, three lectures on "Ancient Britain"; Professor A. W. Bickerton, two lectures on the "New Astronomy"; Professor A. M. Worthington, two experimentally illustrated lectures on the "Phenomena of Splashes"; Mr. M. H. Spielmann, two lectures on the "Portraiture of Shakespeare"; Mr. F. A. Dixey, two lectures on "Dimorphism in Butterflies"; the Rev. John Roscoe, two lectures on the "Banyoro: A Pastoral People of Uganda"; Professor Sir J. J. Thomson, professor of natural philosophy, six lectures on "Molecular Physics." The Friday evening meetings will begin on January 19, when Professor Sir James Dewar will deliver a discourse on "Heat Problems."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the terms of the will of Mrs. Jan K. Sacher, who died in Oakland recently, the University of California is to receive \$500,000. The will stipulates that \$200,000 is to be spent on a granite campanile tower, 300 feet in height, to be erected in the center of the university grounds.

A HALF-MILLION endowment has been secured by Huron College, a Presbyterian institution in Huron, S. D.

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY has obtained a \$200,000 endowment fund, of which the General Education Board has contributed \$50,000.

A DEPARTMENT of veterinary science has been established at the University of Wisconsin, with Professor A. S. Alexander as head. Professor F. B. Hadley will assist Dr. Alexander in the work. Headquarters for the new department have been provided in the stock pavilion where a dispensary and operating rooms have also been provided. The courses in veterinary science are designed for students of agriculture and enable them to care for animals intelligently both in health and in disease, and to recognize the common diseases, blemishes and vices to which animals are subject.

THE mayor of Brighton, in a circular, quoted in the *London Times*, accompanying his invitation to attend a meeting to consider a proposal to establish a university at Brighton, says that by adopting the scheme suggested by Mr. Clayton, a member of the Education Committee, at the mayoral banquet last month, a university education would be brought within the reach of residents in Sussex who may prefer that their sons should receive university education within reach of their own homes. The Brighton Technical College and the new Training College provide a nucleus around which the scheme could be developed. It is suggested that there might be affiliation with the colleges at Portsmouth and Southampton to constitute a new university for the south coast, or that the present radius of the University of London should be extended to include the proposed new University College.

THE Rev. T. A. BENDRAT, of Turners Falls, Mass., has been appointed instructor in the department of geology at the University of North Carolina, his appointment taking effect on January 4, 1912.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WILLIAM LLOYD EVANS has been made professor of general chemistry in the Ohio State University. The chemical department of the Ohio State University now consists of Professor William McPherson, head of the department, in charge of organic chemistry, and also dean of the Graduate School of Ohio State University; Professor William E. Henderson, professor of inorganic and physical chemistry; Professor Charles W. Foulk, professor of analytical chemistry; Professor William L. Evans, professor of general chemistry; Dr. James R. Withrow, associate professor of chemistry in charge of industrial and applied electro-chemistry; David R. Kellogg, instructor in general and physical chemistry, and Dr. John A. Wilkinson, instructor in analytical chemistry; together with six assistants and nine instructing fellows. There are in addition on the campus in separate buildings the department of agricultural chemistry and the laboratories of metallurg-

ical chemistry, ceramic chemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry, including seven professors, one associate professor, four assistant professors and several instructors.

THE following have resigned their positions in Macdonald College, Province of Quebec: Mr. F. C. Elford, poultry instructor and manager, to take charge of the Educational Bureau of the Cyphers Incubator Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. J. M. Swaine, lecturer in biology, appointed assistant entomologist of the Dominion Experimental Farms in charge of work on forest insects; Mr. W. H. Brittain, assistant in biology, appointed assistant botanist of the seed division, Dominion Department of Agriculture; Mr. W. B. Cooley, assistant in animal husbandry, to go into private business in British Columbia. The following appointments have been made to the staff of the college: Mr. W. P. Fraser, M.A., Pictou, N. S., lecturer in biology; Mr. W. J. Reid, B.S.A., assistant in animal husbandry.

DR. J. H. BONNEMA, curator of the museum at Delft, has been called to the chair of geology at Groningen, to succeed Professor Van Kolker, who retires from active service.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### ASTRONOMICAL REFERENCES IN TEXT-BOOKS ON PHYSICS

A SHORT time ago, having occasion to look into the treatment, given in some text-books on physics, of Roemer's method of determining the velocity of light, I was surprised to find a strange lack of information upon some simple definitions and well-known facts of astronomy. Thinking it well to call attention to this matter, I give below quotations from several books.

Glazebrook, "Light" (1894), pages 21 and 22: "Roemer discovered in 1656 that it travels with definite velocity." ". . . the period between two successive eclipses is known and is found to be 48 hours 28 minutes 35 seconds."

Jones, "Lessons in Heat and Light" (1892), page 197: "It happens that one of Jupiter's satellites (or moons) passes into the shadow of the planet at regular intervals (48½ hours), and is thus eclipsed."